

Books and Their Makers Randolph Bourne's "Untimely Papers"—Memoirs of Von Tirpitz

"My Memoirs," by Von Tirpitz

German Admiral Explains Why He Urged Campaign of the Submarines

By William L. McPherson
MY MEMOIRS. By Grand Admiral von Tirpitz. Two volumes: \$vo., pp. x, 377; 135. Dodd, Mead & Co.
Friedrich Hebbel's tragedy "Maria Magdalena" ends with this exclamation of the broken-hearted old father: "Ich verstehe die Welt nicht mehr" ("I no longer understand the world").
Grand Admiral von Tirpitz might have put that sentence on the title page of his "Memoirs." When he wrote them he saw his life work ruined. The great German fleet which he built had hauled down its flag in ignominy. He had been forced to sit by helpless while Germany was being clumsily involved in a war in which the fact of her aggression was blatantly advertised. To add to his cup of bitterness he was not permitted to control in war time the use of the powerful instrument which he had so skillfully constructed in peace.

Tirpitz was one of the chief authors of the war and of Germany's defeat, since it was his policy of naval expansion which challenged British supremacy on the seas and thus inevitably pushed Great Britain into the Triple Entente. It was also an incident of his policy of sea power for Germany that led to the submarine offensive and the unrestricted use of the U-boat, through which the United States was drawn into the war on the side. Yet in the diplomatic maneuvers which preceded hostilities and throughout the struggle itself he was compelled to remain an anxious, embittered onlooker, deprived of authority and frozen out of imperial favor. Naturally his retrospect is envenomed. He heaps unmeasured scorn on the leaders who rejected his counsel, undermined his influence and committed that extraordinary series of blunders, diplomatic, political and military, which sealed Germany's fate. Bethmann-Hollweg was, in Tirpitz's view, the arch-betrayer. Next in culpability came the Kaiser, whose incompetency and vanity stood in the way of any real unification of German efforts. And behind these two was the rigidity of the imperial system of government, which divided responsibility, created vacillations and frictions and barred the way to any clarification of German military policy. Tirpitz seethes with indignation at the German military and democratic and democratic in general. Yet he is frequently obliged to contrast the efficiency of the war dictatorships which the French, British and American democracies were willing to set up with the feebleness of the autocratic system under which Germany operated.

In his reminiscences patriotic humbug is, of course, accentuated by personal resentment. "The end of my career and my faith in my people," he says, "was to see the war lost by weakness, blindness and party spirit."
Tirpitz's book is devoted, in the broader sense, to a justification of his theory that Germany's political future and her ability to maintain her position as a great power depended upon the creation of a navy strong enough to challenge Great Britain's. This theory was an exceedingly dangerous one to work on. The results proved it to be illusory. In the final analysis German sea power, used offensively, lost the war for Germany. Strongly as Tirpitz was committed to the doctrine, his faith in it seems to have been shaken at times. He admits that "the unfortunate outbreak and course of the war" may justify to history those who held the opposite view. He should not have built a fleet for my country with all my heart," he writes, "if I had not believed in its [the country's] ability to become a real free world power. But this belief was shattered. And the self-humiliation of our democracy at least raises the suspicion that I deceived myself as to the inner forces of the nation." That is a notable confession, written by the author in despair. Tirpitz, as has been noted, is not a part in the control or operation of the German navy. He is, therefore, all the more frank in his criticisms of the policy which he followed. And his judgment seems sound as to details. He would have had the high sea fleet seek a battle very early in the war, when German inferiority was less considerable than it was in 1916, and he would have favored unlimited U-boat warfare. But he rightly says that if Germany was going to pursue warfare of that sort, she ought to have begun in a more modest scale in 1915, and greatly intensified her campaign in 1916. He severely condemns the concessions made to the United States after the Lusitania incident and again after the Sussex incident. And there can be little question that Germany would have fared better if she had fought the U-boat warfare issue out with President Wilson in 1915, when he was manifestly unwilling to be bullied into war.

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Science Mocked

Mr. Fort's Record of Strange Happenings

THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED. By Charles Fort. Bantam & Liveright, New York.

In our view of the universe we accept the conclusions of science as unreservedly as our medieval ancestors accepted the pronouncements of the Church. True, we would not burn a man for denying the law of gravitation or insisting that the earth is flat, but we would certainly set him down as crazy; and this is apt to prove quite as effective a punishment as the stake.

New, Mr. Fort is not in the least afraid of being adjudged crazy or being subjected to any other penalty for challenging the prevalent conception of the "unexplainable" laws of nature. He assembles large masses of unexplained, unaccountable, impossible phenomena that have appeared in different parts of the globe and hurls them at the devoted head of dogmatic science. Mr. Fort's phenomena are absolutely damned by every canon of orthodox theory; they cannot be explained in the light of any current conception of the universe. They are strange and motley crew, this assemblage of the damned; mysterious bodies observed in the sky by sailors at sea, unexplained footprints discovered in the snow by Devonshire soldiers, and stones unaccountably falling out of the air and recorded in sober scientific journals.

Some of his host of damned occurrences are of a purely domestic and domestic metaphysical system. He labels this system "intermediary." All phenomena merge imperceptibly into one another. No single fact can be proved, and no single fact can be defined as a fact can be separated from its context. All things are part of an unending chain of the universe that cannot be broken into component parts. Mr. Fort attacks conventional theories with the logic of an Athenian sophist. Take, for example, the following: "The doctrine of the universe, which he employs in analyzing Darwinism: 'The fittest survive.' 'What is meant by the fittest? 'Not the strongest; not the cleverest. 'Weakness and stupidity everywhere survive. 'There is no way of determining fitness except in that a thing does survive. 'Fitness, then, is only another name for 'survival.' 'Darwinism: 'That survivors survive.'"

Merely to read the amazing events "The Book of the Damned" makes fascinating reading. No imaginative fiction writer could conjure up stranger visions than Mr. Fort creates in his collection of mysterious happenings all over the world calculated to confuse any Horatio and his philosophy. In the Middle Ages science disposed of disturbing principles by declaring that they did not exist and showing that Aristotle had no record of them. Mr. Fort's phenomena cannot be disposed of so easily. Unless his book is smothered by a conspiracy of silence it should provoke an extremely lively series of scientific controversies.

W. H. C.

A Western Tale

New Adventure Story By William P. White

LYNCH LAWNERS. By William Patterson White. Little, Brown & Co., Boston.
Mr. White's new story of the mythical wild and woolly West opens with a mournful plaint from Mr. Red Kane, who inquires:
"Why don't something 'er happen?"

Evidently Red did not realize that he was cast for the hero of a Western novel and that the author's honor and reputation depended upon crowding as much action as possible into its pages. Nature, soon begin to take place in a burning desire to lynch some one, the guilty persons preferably, but some one in any event.

Red assumes the dangerous and delicate task of averting suspicion from the innocent and unmasking the guilty. His efforts in behalf of abstract justice involve him in some ticklish adventures; but he displays the cunning of Sherlock Holmes and the marksmanship of William S. Hart, and he finally emerges from his struggle triumphant. A girl in the story whose beauty and attractiveness are not paired by the fact that she can handle a six-shooter with the best of them adds further zest to the narrative.

As in "The Girl of the Lazy D," Mr. White shows himself a master in the field of the Western adventure story. He writes with more humor than can usually be found in tales of this kind, and his hero is a genuine, hearty and definite individuality that is usually lacking in the stalwart cowboy who begins by shooting up the village and ends by shooting down the villain.

Admiral Beatty

Does it pay to be an athlete? Ask Lieutenant Francis T. Hunter, author of that informal collection of portraits Beatty, Jellicoe, Sims and Rodman, just published by Doubleday, Page & Co.

Now, Admiral Beatty is an enthusiastic tennis devotee. The game, he explains, affords "exercise in a concentrated form, and you don't waste valuable hours chasing a miserable helpless ball over the hills." As soon as he heard there was a champion player with the American fleet, the admiral decided to take him on and wrote to the American commander to that effect, asking permission. The "permission" was promptly forthcoming, and a few days later Admiral Beatty's barge steamed alongside the New York and asked for Ensign Hunter.

"To my surprise," says the latter in telling of it, "we headed for the Queen Elizabeth, Beatty's flagship. Coming alongside, I started to disembark, but the motion from the officer of the deck I retreated again to the blue plush cushions and carpets of the inner cabin. I could see every man on the flagship's quarterdeck come sharply to attention as the hostess's shrill whistle piped from above. A moment later I found myself in the presence of Sir David Beatty."

Afterward Mr. Hunter played the five hard sets of doubles with the Admiral's partner, met Lady Beatty and the Beatty children, discussed of ships and men and games and war, and laid the foundations for the friendship which brought him into informal intimate touch with half the great figures of the war and so supplied him with the knowledge and insights which have made his present volume possible.

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Intellectuals' Position in the War Stated by Randolph Bourne

By Rebecca Drucker

UNTIMELY PAPERS. By Randolph Bourne. Published by B. W. Huebsch.

These political essays by Randolph Bourne, which have been gathered into a volume under the challenging title "Untimely Papers," are brilliant expressions of the minority intellectual opinion on the war. The anger of the conformist and the loyalist will rise swift to meet this bitter criticism of our war emotions—but not so swiftly or with as much conviction as it might have twelve months ago. We have been slowly emerging from our romantic fling of war and paying for our expensive lessons in realistic thinking with some disillusioning experiences. Our faith in the wholesale regenerating power of war has been a little shaken. Since those earlier days when liberals and conservatives alike were borne on the resistless sweep of a conviction that all scores for all time were to be settled by this war a cruel doubt has entered our souls.

Bourne's essays appeared in "The Signet" Magazine during 1917. When that periodical was in liquidation there remained no medium through which to express his resistance to the disintegrating effects of the war in modern thought. Until he died in December, 1919, he was a silent spectator, a pacifist objector, who was ironically enough, beyond the reach of the conscription law, because his life had started him out with a physical handicap. The humiliating necessity that most intellectuals have been under of learning to balance modern life on new planes of shifting values—the conversion of Wilsonian liberalism and the recanting when Wilsonian liberalism proved quicksand—that agile casuistry of the native-born radical was never his. What he was in the beginning he was in the end—an outstanding dissenter against the submergence of humanistic values in the business of war.

Signet, in all these essays for word of horror in all these essays for the physical ravages of the war. The psychic effect of panic and hatred on the home keeping population seemed to him far more sinister than the physical destruction of the war. Nor did the spiritual recalcitrance of the war seem to compensate for this. But not so pacifist, it was after all, a collection of mysterious happenings all over the world calculated to confuse any Horatio and his philosophy. In the Middle Ages science disposed of disturbing principles by declaring that they did not exist and showing that Aristotle had no record of them. Mr. Fort's phenomena cannot be disposed of so easily. Unless his book is smothered by a conspiracy of silence it should provoke an extremely lively series of scientific controversies.

Like the hypothetical young man in his third essay, "Below the Battle," Bourne had no imagination to see a shoddy materialism in order built out of the debris of wrecked ideas that each tide of battle cast up. He saw the liberal's coaxed in on the policy of a strategy that could win by its irre-

Modern American Poetry

Louis Untermeyer Plays No Favorites in His Anthology

MODERN AMERICAN POETRY. By Louis Untermeyer. Harcourt, Brace & Howe, New York.

During the last few decades America has produced a remarkable amount of good poetry without a single great poet. This fact speaks well for the flourishing state of the art. A great poet is a genius, and a country that produces a poet is a country that produces a poet. But a considerable output of verse that is good without being touched by genius is a revealing and healthy widespread interest in poetry. Mr. Untermeyer undertakes his anthology of modern American verse with robust faith in the enduring value of his subject matter. In his introduction he says:

"America's poetic renaissance" is no longer a phrase; it is a fact. The last few decades have witnessed an unbroken and amazing growth in the volume as well as in the quality of the work of our poets. A new spirit, energetic, alert, penetrative, seems to have stirred these states, and a country full of writers has responded to it. No longer confined to one or two literary centers, the impulse to create is everywhere; there is scarcely a remote corner which has not produced its laureate."

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the book is its comprehensiveness. Within the compass of 120 poems, many of them quite short, Mr. Untermeyer has secured representation for seventy poets. In some cases he seems to sacrifice for the sake of variety, but his taste he might well have included more of Riley and Frost and Masters and included some of the sublimely poetic masters of the country into the book. The marshaling of a large number of authors, the mediocre with the good, gives perhaps a truer and broader picture of American poetry, with its defects as well as its virtues.

By arranging the anthology in chronological form Mr. Untermeyer presents a vivid picture of the development of American poetry from Emily Dickinson and Edwin Markham to Maxwell Bodenheim and Alfred Kreymborg. Putting down the poets in the order of their birth the author shows the gradual change in the ideals of craftsmanship that has been taking place during the last fifty years. Stilted phrasing gives way to natural spoken language; prosody gives to rough realism; lines that are carefully beaten out in fixed rhythms are succeeded by varied and more or less daring experiments in metrical effects.

Various types of American poetry are admirably illustrated in seven poems about Lincoln which Mr. Untermeyer includes in the anthology. Edwin Markham and Edwin Arlington Robinson praise the martyr President in stately, regular, old-fashioned measures. Edgar Lee Masters finds his inspiration in a memory of Lincoln's wife, Ann Rutledge. Vachel Lindsay creates a fantasy of the kind-hearted Lincoln roused from his grave by the horrors of the war. James Oppenheim hails the child born in a frontier

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Religion

THE SINGLE TRACK. By Douglas Grant. Published by W. J. Watt & Co., New York.

A tale of exciting life in Alaska by the author of "The Fifth Ace," "Booty," etc.

THE SPIRIT. Edited by Canon R. H. Streeter. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

The relation of God and man considered from the standpoint of recent philosophy and science. Among the contributors to the book are A. Seth Pringle Paulson, Captain J. A. Hadden, J. Douglas, Rev. C. W. Emmett and A. Clutton-Brock.

THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW PHILOSOPHY. By John Herman Randall. Published by Brentano's, New York.

The spiritual forces brought into play by the war analyzed from a liberal viewpoint by a well known lecturer and philosopher of the New Thought school.

LIVING WATERS, OR MESSAGES OF JOY. Published by Brentano's, New York.

This book contains alleged messages from the spirit world, which breathe the consciousness of the reality of God as a loving Presence. It is provided with an introduction by Dwight Goddard.

THE PRICE OF PEACE. By Ernest M. Strick. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.

A collection of sermons delivered by the preacher of St. Thomas's Church during 1918 and 1919.

"COME YE APART." By John Henry Reville. Published by the Fleming H. Reville Company, New York.

A book of daily exercises in prayer and devotion.

LABOR AND THE COMMON WELFARE. By Samuel Gompers. Compiled and edited by Hayes Robinson. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.

Extracts from speeches and articles delivered and written by Mr. Gompers at various times and bearing upon industrial problems.

ESSAYS ON WHEAT. By A. H. Reginald Butler. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

Wheat growing in America considered from an expert's standpoint.

THE LABOR MARKET. By Don D. Leach. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

A volume which aims to prove the necessity for national machinery for the control of the problem of employment, and the director of the training course for social service work in the University of Minnesota.

SANITATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES. By Herbert Winslow Hill. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

A book written to give public health nurses a concise view of such aspects of modern public health as may be conveniently listed under sanitation.

WORKINGMEN'S STANDARD OF LIVING IN PHILADELPHIA. By William C. Boyer, Rebekah P. Davis and Myra Thayer. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

The result of an intensive study by the Bureau of Municipal Research of Philadelphia of the household budgets of 260 workingmen's families in the city. The authors estimate the income necessary to maintain a fair standard of living at \$1,636.79.

THE NARCOTIC DRUG PROBLEM. By Ernest S. Hishop. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

A study of the problem by a physician, who urges that drug addicts should be treated as patients rather than as criminals.

MISCELLANEOUS
MAN OR THE STATE? Edited by Waldo R. Brown. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York.

A symposium of famous writers' opinions about the nature of the state and the problem of human freedom. The authors quoted are Kropotkin, Buckle, Emerson, Thoreau, Spencer, Tolstoy and Oscar Wilde.

DEMOCRACY MADE SAFE. By Paul Harris Drake. Published by the Four Seas Company, Boston.

The author suggests the abolition of money and all forms of medium of exchange as the means for a better social order.

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A discussion of the difficulties of reconstruction and the vehement denunciation of Bolshevism.

COMMERCIAL RESEARCH. By C. S. Duncan. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

A discussion of scientific principles for the solving of commercial problems.

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Jack London might have written this tale of the Sea and the Northwest; of a tenderfoot among strong men, hardened by suffering, spurred on by love, and coming out of a terrible, spirit-breaking test, — a man.

THE SHEPHERD OF THE SEA by Henry Leverage

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By Robert Cortes Holliday

BROOME STREET STRAWS

A new book of essays by the author of "WALKING-STICK PAPERS." GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

Elizabeth Cary Agassiz

Memoirs of Wife of Famous Scientist and Noted Educator

ELIZABETH CARY AGASSIZ. A biography by Lucy Allen Paton. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

The effect of any vivid biography is rightly disturbing and a trifle unseemly to conservative and finite-minded people who like to see things neatly finished off. The little fictional biography is in a sense the last of the last rites. The biography which recreates a subtle and powerful personality in all its wrinkles of idiosyncrasy, its contradictions of character and its inviolable mysteriousness is a betrayal of the trust in the biographer that he will compose the features of the deceased.

There is the correct odor of mortality wreaths about the biography that Lucy Allen Paton has written of Elizabeth Cary Agassiz. She has embalmed her subject in reverence and laid a grave-stone of eulogy upon him from under which no resurrection seems possible.

Elizabeth Cary Agassiz was the wife of Louis Agassiz, the famous scientist, but she seems to have been a personality in her own right as well. She was born in Boston in 1822, the daughter of a well-to-do merchant in the China trade, a member of one of the most distinguished of Boston families. She was given only the slim general education accorded to elegant females of the period. By what affinity of taste this prim New England young woman and the eager young Swiss naturalist discovered each other the biographer does not make plain, but all the other most important processes of her life are equally ignored in this biography. During her twenty-three years of marriage with Agassiz, she accompanied him on the most important of his scientific expeditions, took an intelligent and sympathetic part in his work and mothered generously the little foreign children of his first marriage. The intellectual agitation in Boston stirred her to an interest in the education of women and at the death of her famous husband she returned to this subject with a more active interest. She was one of an early group who clamored that the resources of Harvard be opened to women. She was thus one of the founders of Radcliffe College and its first president. She guided its destinies with great astuteness until she was eighty.

It was with a heavy sinking of the heart that we read early in the book that the nearest approach to a memoir recorded against Mrs. Agassiz in the course of her eighty-five years was, when at the age of sixteen or thereabouts, she sat up late to finish a

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